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Appl. No. 10/673,994
Amdt. Dated August 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 20, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A urine guiding article for use with a body fluid absorbent article having an absorbent inner surface, said urine guiding article having a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction, said urine guiding article further comprising:

a plurality of ~~individual~~ ribbon-like strips; and

a sheet-like connecting region;

said plurality of ~~individual~~ ribbon-like strips having a thickness and extending along said longitudinal direction while being arranged in said transverse direction and having proximal end portions that are interconnected to one another by the sheet-like connecting region and free, ~~unattached~~ distal end portions that are not directly connected to one another, wherein the ribbon-like strips are only interconnected to each other at their proximal end portions; and

said sheet-like connecting region that interconnects said proximal end portions of said plurality of ribbon-like strips ~~and attaches~~ attachable onto said ~~absorbent~~ inner surface of said body fluid absorbent article ~~with so that~~ said plurality of ribbon-like strips ~~lying lie~~ on said absorbent inner surface in said longitudinal direction,

Appl. No. 10/673,994
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whereby an amount of urine discharged on said plurality of ribbon-like strips is guided therealong from said proximal end portions toward said ~~free, unattached~~ distal end portions.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The article according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon-like strips spread an amount of urine in said longitudinal direction while preventing the spread of urine in said transverse direction in use.

Claim 3 (Original): The article according to claim 1, wherein each of said ribbon-like strips comprises a fibrous assembly in which component fibers are oriented in said longitudinal direction.

Claim 4 (Original): The article according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon-like strips comprise hydrophobic fibers.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The article according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon-like strips comprise hydrophobic fibers and hydrophilic fibers.

Claim 6 (Original): The article according to claim 1, wherein said connecting region is coated on one surface thereof with an adhesive.

Appl. No. 10/673,994
Amdt. Dated August 21, 2006
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Claim 7 (Currently amended): The article according to claim 6, in combination with a body fluid absorbent article having an inner surface, wherein said adhesive permanently attaches said article to said ~~absorbent~~ inner surface of said body fluid absorbent wearing article.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The article according to claim 6, in combination with a body fluid absorbent article having an inner surface, wherein said adhesive removably attaches said article to one of said ~~absorbent~~ inner surface of said body fluid absorbent wearing article and a body of a wearer.

Claim 9 (Canceled):

Claim 10 (New): A urine guiding article for use with a body fluid absorbent article having an inner surface, said urine guiding article having a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction, said urine guiding article further comprising:

- a plurality of ribbon-like strips; and

- a sheet-like connecting region;

- said plurality of ribbon-like strips having distal end portions that are separated from one another by slits formed between adjacent ones of said plurality of ribbon-like strips, said plurality of ribbon-like strips further having proximal end portions that are integrally connected to each other by the sheet-like connecting region which extends beyond proximal terminal ends of said slits formed

Appl. No. 10/673,994
Amdt. Dated August 21, 2006
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between adjacent ones of said plurality of ribbon-like strips, said plurality of ribbon-like strips further having a thickness and extending along said longitudinal direction while being arranged in said transverse direction, wherein the ribbon-like strips are only interconnected to each other at their proximal end portions by the sheet-like interconnecting region; and

said sheet-like connecting region being attachable onto said inner surface of said body fluid absorbent article so that said plurality of ribbon-like strips lie on said absorbent inner surface in said longitudinal direction,

whereby an amount of urine discharged on said plurality of ribbon-like strips is guided therealong from said proximal end portions toward said distal end portions.

Claim 11 (New): The article according to claim 10, wherein said ribbon-like strips spread an amount of urine in said longitudinal direction while preventing the spread of urine in said transverse direction in use.

Claim 12 (New): The article according to claim 10, wherein each of said ribbon-like strips comprises a fibrous assembly in which component fibers are oriented in said longitudinal direction.

Claim 13 (New): The article according to claim 10, wherein said ribbon-like strips comprise hydrophobic fibers.

Appl. No. 10/673,994
Amdt. Dated August 21, 2006
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Claim 14 (New): The article according to claim 10, wherein said ribbon-like strips comprise hydrophobic fibers and hydrophilic fibers.

Claim 15 (New): The article according to claim 10, wherein said connecting region is coated on one surface thereof with an adhesive.

Claim 16 (New): The article according to claim 6, in combination with a body fluid absorbent article having an inner surface, wherein said adhesive permanently attaches said article to said inner surface of said body fluid absorbent wearing article.

Claim 17 (New): The article according to claim 6, in combination with a body fluid absorbent article having an inner surface, wherein said adhesive removably attaches said article to one of said inner surface of said body fluid absorbent wearing article and a body of a wearer.